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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

May 10, 2011

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Governor Terry Branstad
Office of the Governor
State Capitol
1007 East Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50319

Dear Governor Branstad,

For more than a century, Iowa job creation has been directly linked to the railroads, thanks to the bold vision of past Iowa business and political leaders. Once again our leaders have the opportunity to demonstrate that vision. Unfortunately, politics are standing in the way of an investment that would create hundreds of Iowa jobs and stimulate our economy.

On this date in 1869, the Golden Spike was plunged into the ground completing the first Transcontinental Railroad. This monumental event transformed commerce in our state and in our nation. Today, I respectfully ask you to take action that could lead to a similar transformation. Please urge the State House to pass the Senate-passed provisions related to the Chicago-Iowa City passenger rail route.

Now is the time to invest in job-creating infrastructure that will bring both tourism and business opportunities to Iowa. As you know, in October 2010, the U.S. Department of Transportation awarded \$230 million in federal funding for a new passenger rail route between Chicago and Iowa City through the Quad Cities. The project will create hundreds of Iowa jobs, and the new rail service is expected to increase business activity by \$25 million per year.

I was proud to help authorize the Intercity Passenger Rail Grant Program, and I worked hard to provide the funding for this job-creating grant program. It would be unfortunate for the Iowa economy if, after years of hard work by Iowa business

coalitions and elected officials, the State is unable to come up with the remaining funding to make this route a reality. If you cannot sign this funding into law this year, these jobs could be delayed for years and the State risks losing this opportunity entirely.

I urge you to work with leaders of the Iowa State House to bring these jobs to Iowa. Now is not the time for timid policies and small politics. With this historic investment, and under your leadership, our state can move forward and we can get Iowa's economy back on track.

Sincerely,



Bruce Braley

cc: The Honorable Kraig Paulsen, Speaker of the House
The Honorable Mike Gronstal, Senate Majority Leader